

WQS Process and Challenges

Stanford University Ocean Acidification Workshop, Oct. 17-18, 2016

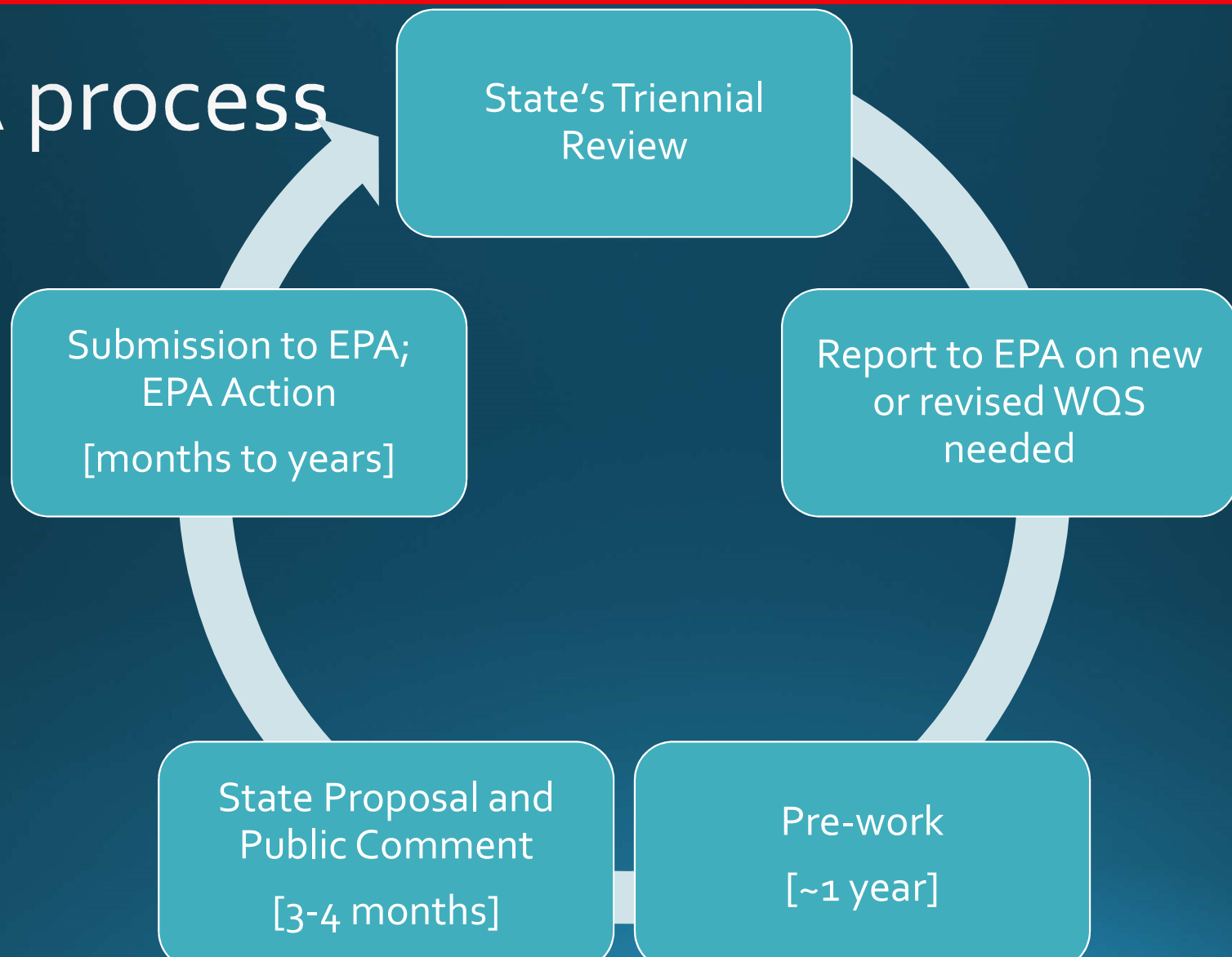
Rochelle Labiosa, R10 WQS program, Office of Water and
Watersheds, Seattle WA

Disclaimer – this presentation reflects the views of the speaker and not necessarily those of EPA

Clean Water Act Objectives

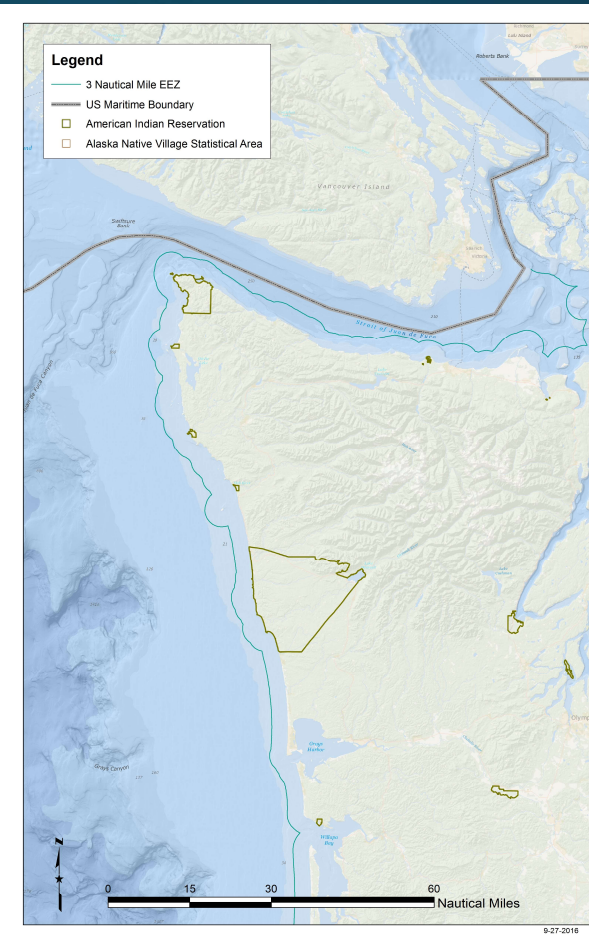
- Objective: “restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters” (Clean Water Act 101(a))
- Interim goal: “water quality which provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish and wildlife and provides for recreation in and on the water” (Clean Water Act 101(a)(2))
 - “fishable/swimmable goals”
- *Applause to California for looking into development of WQS to address this important issue*

CWA process



Where do WQS Apply? CWA Bounds

- “Waters of the U.S.”
- Definitions above include territorial seas within 3 miles of OLW
- There are state, and tribal waters



Questions to ask as WQS are developed

- Sensitive uses designated?
- Numeric?
 - One size fits all?
 - Most sensitive use?
 - Implementation?
 - Magnitude, duration, and frequency important
- Narrative?
 - Interpretation?
 - Implementation?
 - Will it depend on a baseline?
- Pollutant-organismal effect clear?
 - Acclimation of organisms and relative utility of studies

Contacts

- Region 10 WQS Program (AK, ID, OR, WA):
 - Rochelle Labiosa, WQS Oregon, Nutrients, Climate Change, Harmful Algae
206-553-1172 Labiosa.Rochelle@epa.gov
 - Angela Chung, Supervisor, WQSU, 206-553-6511, chung.angela@epa.gov
- R10 OA Team coordinated by Mike Cox, R10 Climate Change Advisor
- Region 9 WQS Program (California): Terry Fleming
Terrence.Fleming@epa.gov